

I claim:

1. A method of providing a prosthetic socket for a residual limb that extends distally from a joint, comprising the steps of:

positioning the residual limb in a substantially positive flexion position;

applying moldable means over at least a portion of the residual limb and joint;

permitting said moldable means to cure and form a negative mold of at least a

portion of the residual limb and joint; and

removing said mold from the residual limb and joint.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of shaping said mold so that a desired range of motion in the joint is permitted when said mold is repositioned on the residual limb.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of forming a positive model of the residual limb using said mold.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of constructing the socket over the positive model of the residual limb.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of reducing and building up the positive model of the residual limb prior to the step of constructing the socket.

1 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of repositioning said mold  
onto the residual limb after the step of shaping said mold.

5 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of making a cast of the  
residual limb that incorporates said mold.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of forming a positive model of  
the residual limb using said cast.

10 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of constructing the socket over  
the positive model of the residual limb.

15 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of reducing and building up  
the positive model of the residual limb prior to the step of constructing the socket.

20 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of fitting a liner onto the  
residual limb and joint prior to the step of applying said moldable means over the  
residual limb and joint.

25 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said liner is comprised of silicone.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said moldable means is comprised of a resin-  
1 impregnated flexible sock.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said sock is comprised of carbon fibers.

5 15. The method of claim 13 wherein said sock is comprised of a lofted glass yarn.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of adapting said mold to be  
coupled to a prosthetic appendage.

10 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of adapting said mold to be  
operatively coupled to a suspension system.